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SUBJECT: MAINICHI OPINION POLL ON KOREA POLICY AND U.S. BASES

SUMMARY: MAINICHI POLL CONDUCTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER FINDS NO GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG PUBLIC ON KOREA POLICY JAPAN SHOULD PURSUE AND NEGATIVE TENDENCY ON ISSUE OF US-JAPAN DEFENSE BURDEN SHARING IN EVENT OF CRISIS IN KOREA. OCCUPATIONAL ELITE SPLIT EVENLY ON ISSUE WHILE EDUCATIONAL ELITE SHOWED CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR ALLOWING NO USE OF BASES AT ALL IN EMERGENCY. END SUMMARY.

1. NOVEMBER 4 "MAINICHI SHIMBUN" PUBLISHED RESULTS OF THAT DAILY'S OPINION SURVEY ON JAPAN'S DIPLOMATIC AND SECURITY POLICIES CONCERNING KOREA. POLLEES WERE 4,131 VOTING-AGE ADULTS, OR ABOUT 74 PERCENT OF 5,591 SELECTED BY MULTI-STAGE RANDOM METHOD. FIELD INTERVIEWING SEPTEMBER 19-22 CONDUCTED JUST AFTER UNGA SESSION BEGAN AND WHEN JAPANESE DIET WAS DEBATING KOREAN ISSUES. FULL TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND PERCENTAGE FINDINGS FOLLOWS. PERCENTAGES IN BRACKETS ARE FIGURES FOR MANAGERIAL-PROFESSIONAL SUB-GROUP. QUESTION (A): PROBLEMS OF KOREAN PENINSULA ARE BEING DEBATED. UNCLASSIFIED

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AS APPROACH THAT JAPAN SHOULD ADOPT, WHICH AMONG FOLLOWING DO

YOU THINK WOULD BE GOOD? (1) INCREASE FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITH ROK -- 18 (20). (2) ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DPRK --14 (29) (3) TRY TO ENABLE BOTH KOREA TO JOIN UN SIMULTANEOUSLY -- 12 (19). (4) TRY TO ENABLE BOTH KOREAS TO JOIN AS SINGLE FEDERATED STATE -- 15 (26). (5) COOPERATE IN PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA -- 34 (50). (6) DON'T KNOW (DK), NO ANSWER (NA) AND OTHER -- 37 (17). QUESTION(B): CONCERNING DEFENSE SHARING BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK JAPAN HAD BEST DO ABOUT U.S. BASES IN JAPAN AND ABOUT JSDF IN EVENT OF KOREAN PENINSULA CRISIS? (SINGLE ANSWER) U.S. BASES IN JAPAN: (1) LET U.S. FORCES USE THEM FREELY -- 2 (4). (2) LET THM BE USED WITH LIMITATIONS -- 27 (38). (3) PERMIT NO USE AT ALL -- 37 (42). (4) DK, NA AND OTHER -- 34 (16). SELF-DEFENSE FORCES: (1) HAVE THEM TAKE TO OPEN SEAS (AND SKIES) AND COOPERATE POSITIVELY -- 5 (9). (2) HAVE THEM ENGAGE IN FEASIBLE COOPERATION WITHIN JAPAN'S TERRITORIAL SEAS (AND SKIES) -- 30 (41). (3) DO NOT COOPERATE AT ALL -- 29 (32). (4) DK, NA AND OTHER --36 (18).

2. COMMENT AND ANALYSIS: PATTERN OF GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSE CHOICES SHOES LACK OF CONSENSUS EITHER ON KNOTTY KOREAN POLICY PROBLEM OR ON HYPOTHETICAL DILEMMA JAPAN WOULD FACE IF HOSTILI-TIES BROKE OUT IN KOREA. BALANCED THREE- WAY SPLIT BETWEEN PLURALITY VIEW, DIFFERING MINORITY VIEWS AND DK/NA RESPONSES HAS BEEN SEEN BEFORE IN POLLS ON OTHER ISSUES NOT FULLY DEBATED IN PUBLIC OR FELT TO BE QUITE HYPOTHETICAL AND REMOTE FROM PRESENT CONCERNS. BY CONTRAST, EVEN WITH MULTIPLE RESPONSES PERMITTED, MANAGERIAL-PROFESSIONAL SUBGROUP CLEARLY PREFERS "COOPERATING FOR PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF BOTH KOREAS." ON MATTER OF USE OF U.S. BASES IN EMERGENCY, THIS BU-GROUP TILTED SOMEWHAT MORE THAN DID GENERAL PUBLIC TOWARD ALLOWING FREE OR LIMITED USE OF BASES (TOTAL OF 42 PERCENT AS AGAINST GENERAL PUBLIC'S 29 PERCENT), BUT STILL ENDED UP EVENLY SPLIT BETWEEN SOME AND NO USE OF U.S. BASES. IN ADDITION, SUB-GROUP WITH HIGHEST EDUCATION STOOD QUITE STRONGLY (52 PERCENT) AGAINST PERMITTING USE OF U.S. BASES AT ALL, AND ALMOST AS STRONGLY (46 PERCENT) AGAINST ANY DEFENSE COOPERATION BY JSDF.

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